

## REMARKS

By virtue of this preliminary amendment, Claims 22-26 are pending. In the parent application, claims substantially corresponding to Claims 22, 23 and 26 were withdrawn as non-elected.

At the time they were withdrawn, Claims 22, 23 and 26 stood rejected by the Examiner as being anticipated by Young. Applicants respectfully submit that Young fails to disclose each and every element of Claim 22.

Claim 22 includes both a compressive system to engage and compress the tension member to provide a first retaining mechanism and a clamp to provide a second retaining mechanism. Young, however, discloses a compressive system defined by items A and A' that are engaged with bolts c to compress the rope and a screw bolt C that pierces the rope.

Screw bolt C, however, is not a clamp and does not retain the rope through a clamping mechanism. Screw bolt C retains the rope by penetrating the rope to form a mechanical lock type mechanism. Young fails to disclose the element of a clamp to provide a second retaining mechanism as claimed in Claim 22.

Therefore, Young fails to disclose each and every element of the claimed invention of Claim 22, and of Claims 23 and 26, which depend from Claim 22.

Similarly, at the time they were withdrawn, claims substantially corresponding to Claims 24 and 25 stood rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(c) over Young, as described above, in view of Down.

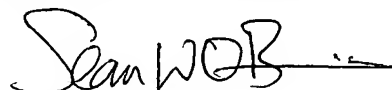
As noted, Young fails to disclose each and every element of Claim 22, from which Claims 24 and 25 depend. Further, the clamp disclosed in Down is an independent termination device, as is the device disclosed in Young. There is no teaching, suggestion or incentive within Young or Down to use two separate, independent termination devices, each of which has the objective of providing a single termination device. There would have been no objective reason for this combination absent hindsight reconstruction based on Applicants' disclosure.

The assignment of this application was recorded in connection with the parent application at Reel 9985, Frame 984.

Favorable consideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sean WOB", followed by a horizontal line.

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